



The Bath Tub

Hot Springs National Park Newsletter



www.hsnrotary.org
 hsnrotaryclub@gmail.com
 www.facebook.com/hsnrotary

Week of February 22, 2021

Upcoming Programs:

February 24, 2021

Laura Miller and Ashley Waymouth
 Hot Springs National Park 100th Anniversary
 Link: <https://zoom.us/j/99292698259>

March 3, 2021

Congressman Bruce Westerman

AR Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin



Rotarian and Rep. Les Warren introduced our speaker, Arkansas' Lt. Governor, Tim Griffin, a Magnolia native and Colonel in the US Army Reserve. Griffin says that Hot Springs is a special place for him, as he spent some of his youth here when his father served as Youth Director for 2nd Baptist Church and he and his wife were married here with their rehearsal dinner at our club's home: the Arlington Hotel's Crystal Ballroom. As Lt. Governor, he quickly cut the LG's budget by 16% and staff by 50% and those cost reductions have



remained in place for the entire six years he has been in this office. Lt. Governor Griffin also spoke about three pending pieces of legislation that are on his radar that are "Pandemic specific":

* **Taxation of the PPP** (Paycheck Protection Program) loans - when the federal government issued these loans, they were presented as federal income tax free loans. But according to law, states must take action to make these loans state income tax exempt. The guidelines for these loans were that all loan dollars must be spent. So if businesses wanted to be responsible and save some of this money to pay state income tax, they would violate the guidelines. If the state chooses to tax the loans, the money will come out of the business owner's pocket during a financially stressful time. Both Griffin and Rep. Warren agreed that voting for this bill is a "no brainer" to allow these loans to be state income tax exempt. So far this bill has passed in the House Revenue & Tax Committee and will soon be going to the Senate for a vote.

* **Taxation of Unemployment Benefits:** Prior to 2017, unemployment income was not subject to state income tax. When the state decided to exempt military retirement from state income tax, instead of finding the savings with government general revenue funds, one of the "pay fors" that they found was to remove the unemployment benefit state income tax exemption. Now with a historic number of Arkansans receiving unemployment benefits due to the pandemic, unfortunately, the state does not have the capability to withhold taxes on these benefits. So recipients will be responsible for the entire amount at once - during an already stressful financial time. The legislature is considering a one time waiver for 2020-2021 and also a fix to withhold state income tax in the future. Rep. Warren added that the consensus of Legislators is that we need to allow these people to use these dollars to get through this difficult time and then fix the withholding problem.

* **Concerning the Governor's Emergency Powers** - there is legislation seeking to curtail the authority of the Governor in the state of emergency. Generally, a state of emergency is limited to a few days or weeks due to incidents, accidents or natural disasters. The Pandemic is so different and most

Club Leaders



[Chuck E. Launius](#)
President



[Tiffany Tucker](#)
President-Elect
Club Programs Chair



[Neal C. Gladner](#)
President-Nominee
Vice President Membership Chair



[Gary McKuin](#)
Secretary



[Courtney W. Moore](#)
Treasurer



[Rollin Caristianos](#)
Club Director - Community Services



[Harmony Hurst Morrissey](#)
Club Director - Meetings & Activities



[Justin Nicklas](#)
Club Director - Administration



[Tiffany B. Rogers](#)
Club Director Youth Services Chair

[Arthur D. Floyd](#)

states were not regulatorily or statutorily ready for this. There are many passions and different views on this, but it needs to be addressed one way or another. Some legislators feel they haven't been included in the pandemic decision making process, so there are several proposals floating around including limiting emergency power to 30 days unless it is extended by vote of the Legislature and another requiring approval by Legislature on certain rules. One piece of Legislation that has already passed is a bill curtailing the authority over Churches or places of worship. Rep. Warren feels this is a very difficult situation as he has constituents who feel the Governor has done too much and some say he hasn't done enough. The one piece of legislation that he has seen on this is extremely involved. You want a Governor who can lead the people in times of emergencies, but at the same time, you want the people to have a voice. Both Warren and Griffin agree that it is a very difficult matter and there probably isn't an easy fix, but bottom line: "We have to take care of our people".
 Lt. Gov. Griffin offered his cell number to anyone who would like to call or text about these or any other state matters - 501-837-5190.



Sergeant-at-Arms



[Donna K. Smith](#)
 Club Executive Secretary



[Stephanie Alderdice](#)
 Webmaster



[Michelle Ratcliff](#)
 iPast President



[Candace M. Young](#)
 Assistant Governor

The 4-Way Test



Invocation - **John Hoefl**

Pledge ♦ **Susan Harper**

The 4 Way Test ♦ **Linda Ragsdale**



Birthdays

John D. Selig
 February 20th

Jared Zeiser
 February 22nd

Michael Raub
 February 28th

Scott Green
 March 1st

Carol Hollingshead
 March 2nd

Billy J Burrough Jr.
 March 11th

Jean E. Wallace
 March 15th

John S Stobaugh
 March 16th

Justin Nicklas
 March 21st

Brenda Brooks
 March 22nd

E. Brad Hudgens
 March 25th

S. Robert Zunick
 March 30th

Student Guests



Rotarian **Christi Nation** introduced her "kind, smart and beautiful" niece and our student guest speaker, Lauren Boston, who is a Senior at Lakeside High School. Lauren is an extremely outgoing student who has a 3.98 GPA, is Vice President of her Senior Class and the National Spanish Honor Society, the Sen. John Bozeman Youth Council, volunteers for Jackson House and Special Olympics, was chosen as a Girls' State Delegate and also the LHS Gold Homecoming Queen. She also co-founded the "Future Generation of America", a student-based club that helps educate students toward adulthood, including mock interviews, time and budget management and

scholarship information.

Boston plans on pursuing a nursing degree at UCA and furthering her education with a Doctrate degree. She also plans to incorporate sign language and Spanish into her education so that she can help beyond our borders.

Guests

Rotarian **Ernie Hinz** introduced his guest, Danny Bradley, owner of the Crystal Ridge Distillery.

Board Notes

The next Board meeting will be held **via Zoom on Tuesday, March 9 at noon**. All membership is invited to join us, especially new members who are trying to earn that coveted Blue Badge!

Please let President Launius or Donna K know that you are interested in joining us so we can send you the appropriate meeting link.

Announcements

President **Chuck** announced that he had met with Scott Larsen with the Arlington Hotel about our Club's future return to weekly luncheon meetings. Larsen was very receptive and basically said whatever we need, they will make it happen. While the Club will work within the Department of Health guidelines, our leadership is now working on these plans since the vaccine is now in progress. Be looking for an opportunity to provide input, as we will be reaching out to membership for your opinions. But HOPEFULLY we'll have a target date to return to our in-person meetings soon.

Several members have requested a copy of the power point that last week's speaker, Dr. David Rankin, used in his presentation. Please respond to this email if you would like to receive a copy.

Our **student guest program** is going great! But we need your help to schedule more students! If you have a relationship with, or know of a high school senior who would like to participate in our student guest program, please reach out to our Student Guest Committee Chair, **Linda Ragsdale** (lindarags6032@gmail.com). Linda is working with school counselors to get these arranged. Due to the Covid changes in our meetings, students will join us once via Zoom to observe our meeting and speak to us on their second virtual visit.

President Chuck Launius



This is the only time in the past 10 months when meeting via zoom was the only choice we had as a club to gather and see each other. With over 12 inches of snow and record low temperatures, I never considered cancelling our weekly meeting and only because of our club meeting via zoom. I hope all of you enjoyed the beautiful snow in Hot Springs. Snow makes this one of the most gorgeous places in Arkansas but it was certainly a privilege to see each of you and to hear our guest speaker, Lt. Governor Tim Griffin speak to our club.

Today I made an announcement about our plans to meet again at the Arlington. Those plans are taking place now with more to come later to our membership. The question is *when?* There will be more information gathered over the next several weeks, as well as gathering opinions from our membership but as the vaccine continues to roll out we will plan our eventual

return while abiding by the Arkansas Department of Health's guidelines and our utmost care of our membership's health.

I look forward to seeing you next Wednesday via zoom and until then, **Service above Self!**

Links to view previous Rotary Zoom Meetings

To view this week's presentation:

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the February 17, 2021 presentation by Arkansas' Lt. Governor, Tim Griggin.

For these previous recordings:

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the January 20, 2021 presentation by **Wayne Smith with Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the January 27, 2021 presentation by **Ted Thompson with Project HOPE Food Bank**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the February 3, 2021 presentation by **Dushun Scarbrough, Executive Director of the Arkansas MLK Commission**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the February 10, 2021 presentation by **Dr. David Rankin**, President Emeritus of Southern Arkansas University who spoke about **Economics in the midst of Covid**.

Thought for the Week

*"No pandemic can kill a dream".
~HSNP Rotary President Chuck Launius*
